

Daringer Pistol & Bullet

DRAWER 137

JOHN WILKES RIBBON

21 2009 025 03295



The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln

Derringer Pistol and Bullet

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

"Genuine Pistols" Used by John Wilkes Booth in Assassinating President LINCOLN are still being sold in different parts of the country. As a matter of fact that pistol is securely locked up in the safe in the office of the Judge Advocate General of the Army, having been in the custody of that functionary since the trial of the conspirators.

© Armstrong & Associates
I/4/09

There was shown the other day in the office of the police bureau of Philadelphia a small derringer pistol, which is believed to be the one John Wilkes Booth used on the night of Lincoln's assassination. It is about four inches long, is ornamented with silver and shoots a half-inch ball. On a small silver plate attached to the butt are inscribed the words, "J. W. Booth." According to its possessor the weapon was picked up in Ford's Theatre by a stage carpenter, by whom it was given to the late George Goodwin, of the Walnut St. Theatre. The widow of Goodwin gave it to Solicitor Plowman, whose son is the owner now. Mr. Plowman says he wrote to the Army and Navy Museum at Washington and asked the directors if anything was known of the whereabouts of the pistol that slew Lincoln. The reply stated that although the Museum had the bullet found in Lincoln's body, the pistol had never been found. 12-21-1888

LINCOLN RELICS.

On Exhibition in the National Museum
in Washington.

Washington, May 22.—Certain gruesome relics connected with the assassination of President Lincoln April 14, 1865, and with the subsequent trial of the conspirators at the arsenal, now the Washington barracks, are to be placed on exhibition at the National museum. At the conclusion of the trial of the conspirators these relics were turned over to the judge advocate general of the army, at that time General Holt, and have been in the uninterrupted custody of that office ever since.

They include the small Derringer pistol with which Booth shot Mr. Lincoln, and which he afterward dropped in the box at the theater; the bullet which Booth shot into the head of Mr. Lincoln; the dagger with which Booth wounded Colonel Rathbone, and which he afterward flourished over his head as he ran across the stage of the theater and shouted: "Sic semper tyranny," and about fifty other articles.

Relics of Lincoln.

From the Washington Star.

Two relics of Abraham Lincoln of very exceptional interest have just been added to the museum at the house in which he died, No. 516 Tenth street. The first is the Lincoln family Bible, owned by the President's parents, and having his name on the inside of the cover in a childish, scrawling hand. It is of a rare edition of 1799. From this book Mr. Lincoln derived that wide and accurate knowledge of the Scriptures that marks all his speeches and State papers to an extent unequalled by any other American public man. This book bears the marks of much use, but is in a good state of preservation. The second relic is a deed, all in Mr. Lincoln's hand, bearing date the 25th of October, 1841, and in a perfect condition as to legibility. This is one of the most interesting autographs of Mr. Lincoln in existence. These articles have become the property of the Memorial Association of the District of Columbia through the generosity of one of its members, Mr. Gardner G. Hubbard.

RELICS OF LINCOLN'S DEATH

W. L. Browne Saw Gruesome Mementoes in Washington.

While on his late visit to Washington D. C., W. L. Browne of this city was accorded the rare opportunity of getting to see and even handle some of the most treasured relics of our national history—the things most directly connected with the death of Abraham Lincoln, the first of our martyred presidents.

In order to make the story clear we will note the fact that F. W. Browne, a Knoxville boy and son of W. L. Browne, has a trusted situation in the war department at the national capital. The son is on speaking terms to terms of friendliness with many of the high officials and thru that friendship Mr. W. L. Browne was allowed an opportunity to see the relics mentioned, which are seldom brought from their hiding place in a box kept inside a big safe in the judge advocate general's office.

The special mementoes mentioned by Mr. Browne were: The pistol (single-shot powder and ball Derringer) used by J. Wilkes Booth on the night of April 14, 1865, when he crept into the president's box at Ford's theatre and shot the loved Lincoln in the back part of the head, sending a ball into the great man's brain which caused death early the next morning. That pistol was found in the president's box, and is now treasured at more than its weight in gold. The other relics mentioned by Mr. Browne are the flattened bullet which was taken from the president's brain after death, and some pieces of the skull of the great emancipator.

These last mentioned mementoes of the great tragedy are kept under a small glass case in the box with the pistol. The government authorities also have Booth's saddle, the one used on the horse he rode while making his wild flight from the scene of his murderous deed; also the boots he wore that night, one of which was found under a bed at Dr. Mudd's home several days after the doctor had cut it from Booth's foot in order to set the bone of the assassin's leg, which had been broken by the leap from the president's box to the stage, a distance of 12 or 14 feet.

Elsa, Texas.
4/3-32

MENU

Dr. Louis A. Warren,
Port Wayne, Ind.
Dear Sir -

Just saw your add, in
the Elsa News, that you want
Lincoln relics, will say that
I am supposed to have the
gun that Lincoln was shot with
it is a Colt made about 1855,
36 Caliber. has Booths name on
the handle.

Yours,

Wm W. Wyman
Elsa Cafe
Elsa

Texas

ELSA CAFE
ELSA, TEXAS
If you don't eat here, we
both starve

Drink
Coca-Cola

Delicious and Refreshing



GUN SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN USED BY BOOTH IN ASSASSINATING LINCOLN

April 6, 1932

Mr. William W. Wyman
Elsa Cafe
Elsa, Texas

My dear Mr. Wyman:

Thank you for your answer to our query about Lincoln curios and we would be pleased to learn something further about the gun which you have claimed to have been used by Booth in the assassination of Lincoln.

I am wondering if you will be willing to trace the history of the gun from the time it rested in Booth's hand until it came into your possession. That would allow us to determine whether or not we were interested in the display of the relic if it could be made available.

Respectfully yours,

LAF:AMM

Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

Cellar Holds Relics Of Lincoln's Murder



Post Staff Photo.

Edwin B. Pitts, custodian of the collection, holds the pistol with which John Wilkes Booth shot Abraham Lincoln. Also shown are the assassin's carbine, dagger, army revolver, compass, boot and tie.

Ancient U. S. Safe Holds Pistol Which Killed Emancipator.

Wash. Post 7-11-35
Tucked away in a subbasement room of the State, War and Navy Building, in a corner among dozens of steel cabinets containing court-martial records, are an ancient safe and a wooden chest in which are kept the pistol which killed Abraham Lincoln, the extracted bullet and other relics associated with the assassination of the emancipator.

As chief clerk of the Judge Advocate General's office, War Department, Edwin B. Pitts is custodian of the collection, which served as prosecution exhibits at the Lincoln conspirators' military trial. He had shown them to biographers and cranks, traveling salesmen and clergymen, all interested in America's most famous assassination.

Yesterday, for the first time in a long while—the War Department does not encourage inspection by the curious—he again exposed the Derringer .45 which martyred a President, the dagger waved by Booth on the stage of Ford's Theater, the assassin's diary and other relics which helped convict Mrs. Surratt and John Payne of complicity.

Pitts, keeping up a running description of the exhibits as they appeared, unlocked the chest and lifted the lid to reveal a curio-seeker's paradise. On top was the saddle which Booth used in his getaway. There was the dagger with which he attacked President Lincoln's bodyguard just before leaping from the box to the stage. Here was one of the assassin's boots, slashed by Dr. Mudd so he could dress the wearer's fractured leg.

A short blast by the custodian proved that Booth's whistle, which he blew immediately after firing the shot, is still in perfect condition.

There are a dozen or more reminders of the tragedy, including a piece of Booth's necktie, guns, knives, rope, a pickax, a carbine, actresses' photographs and the pocket compass, still accurate, which served Booth in his escape.

One student of Lincolniana made a trip from California expressly to compare the old-fashioned Derringer in his possession with the one used by Booth. They were amazingly similar, but the visitor pressed no fantastic claims.

He didn't even intimate, said Pitts, that his gun and not the War Department's killed Lincoln, though such a boast would have been less

preposterous than the argument of another visitor that Booth's skeleton hangs in the Army Medical Museum.

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SUNDAY DECEMBER 25, 1938

Wilkes Booth 'Death Pistols' Claimed by 200

TUSCALOOSA, Ark., Dec. 24 (U. P.).—More than 200 pistols with which Abraham Lincoln was killed are in existence, if the stories of their owners are to be believed.

This is the statement of Prof. Frank J. Foster, of the University of Alabama faculty, who for 12 years had been collecting old firearms and reading about them.

"Often the possessors of the Lincoln pistols get confused in their chronology and exhibit as the fatal weapon one which was not even made until years after the assassination of the Civil War President," Foster said.

Foster is wary of most of the tales about old firearms and their reputed former owners. He said the story often associated with a gun—sometimes untrue—and the sentiment attached to it, frequently increases its value in the opinion of the owner.

Foster's collection includes about 40 early American and European pistols, ranging from vest pocket models to .60-caliber "horse pistols."

His special interest in old Colt revolvers has netted him several at least 100 years old. His collection includes "pepper boxes," with six-in-one barrels, French "pinfires" and old flintlocks.

One of the most interesting phases of collecting, Foster points out, is the primitive means of exchange so often resorted to in bartering and trading.

"Lincoln Death" Pistols Total 200

Lincoln's pistols 1/2 3/4
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Derringer Used to Kill Lincoln To Go On Display for First Time

Other Fateful Relics of Conspirators To Be Shown at Museum Monday

The Government's "Exhibit A" in the most tragic murder plot of American history will be placed on public display for the first time Monday.

The wicked little silver-mounted derringer which killed Abraham Lincoln is to be shown at the Lincoln Museum, along with other fatal accessories employed by John Wilkes Booth and his fellow conspirators.

The guns, daggers, ropes and other implements of the conspirators were used in evidence against them at their trial, and since have remained in custody of the War Department, which has loaned them to the museum. They will be exhibited for the first time Monday, on Lincoln's birthday.

The display includes the slender, bone-handled dagger with which Booth stabbed Maj. Henry R. Rathbone when the latter seized him after he shot President Lincoln. There are numerous other daggers and bowie knives taken in the possessions of Lewis Thornton Powell, alias Payne, and other conspirators.

Includes Diary.

The relics include Booth's diary, his compass believed to have been stained by candle grease as he sought to get his bearings while crossing the Potomac in the darkness and one of two Spencer carbines he held in his hands, it was

said, when fatally shot by pursuing troops.

Booth's saddle and bridle also were preserved, along with his worn, square-toed boot cut from his broken leg by Dr. Samuel Mudd. Among Booth's possessions was a code machine which consisted of a drum, covered with letters, which could be revolved beneath a movable pointer.

That the misguided actor had a romantic turn of mind was evinced by half a dozen photographs of pretty girls found in his possessions.

The exhibit includes the broad-bladed knife with which Payne cut the throat of Secretary Seward, and several of his revolvers, one of which the former Confederate soldier used to fell Seward's son.

Includes Stick to Bar Door.

There are two of Booth's revolvers and the short pine stick he used to bar the door to Lincoln's box in the Ford Theater on the night of April 14, 1865.

The exhibit includes the pick used by Payne in an attempt to disguise himself as a laborer when he returned to Mrs. Surratt's boarding

house after several days of hiding in the woods.

In the Government's evidence was a length of stout rope which, it was charged, the conspirators hoped to use in a mad plot to kidnap the President and take him into Virginia.

Revolver That Shot Lincoln.

THE assassination of President McKinley recalled to George Plowman, the well-known theatrical architect of this city, the murder of President Lincoln by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theater, Washington, D. C., on April 14, 1865. Mr. Plowman is the possessor of the Derringer, a small vest-pocket revolver, from which Booth fired the fatal shot.

"Several times it has been doubted that the Derringer which I have is the one with which Lincoln was murdered," said Mr. Plowman, "but there is absolutely no doubt that it is the same weapon. Three or four years after the shooting, while George K. Goodwin and myself were running the Walnut-Street Theater in this city, the stage carpenter, who was working at Ford's Theater the night of the assassination, put in an appearance at the Walnut-Street Theater. He informed Mr. Goodwin (they had been friends for many years) in a confidential manner that he had in his possession something that had caused him great anxiety. The carpenter, whose name I do not recall, told Mr. Goodwin in my presence that he had the Derringer that Booth had used to murder Lincoln.

"The reason he had not said anything about it prior to that time, he said, was because he was afraid of being arrested. The carpenter said he picked it up on the stage of Ford's Theater after Booth had fled to Virginia. He pocketed the weapon and kept it secret. He drew up a statement of the occurrence and signed it in our presence. Then he gave the Derringer to Mr. Goodwin. When Mr. Goodwin died his widow made me a present of the weapon, together with the stage carpenter's signed statement."

Mr. Plowman prizes the weapon very highly and no amount of money could purchase it.—[Philadelphia Inquirer.

FIREARMS

THE FATAL DERINGER



This photograph shows the actual pistol which killed Abraham Lincoln. It was dropped by the assassin before he jumped from the president's box. It was picked up and turned over to the authorities and has been in the

possession of the United States government ever since. It is now a part of the exhibits in the Lincoln Museum in the Ford Theatre, Washington, D.C.

The Deringer was used as an exhibit in the Trial of the Conspirators which followed the assassination. Afterwards it was retained by the Judge Advocate General until 1939 when it was transferred to the Lincoln Museum for exhibit purposes. It is a single shot pistol and has the following dimensions:

Overall length 5-27/32
Barrel length 1-15/16
Lockplate length 2-3/4
Caliber .4375

The play presented at Ford's Theater on the night of April 14, 1865, was Tom Taylor's celebrated comedy "Our American Cousin" with Laura Keane, a distinguished actress, in the leading role. The importance of the occasion was heightened by the presence of President and Mrs. Lincoln, who had as their guests Maj. Henry R. Rathbone and his fiancée, Miss Clara Harris.

The third act of the play was drawing to a close when John Wilkes Booth, prominent actor, entered the building and made his way leisurely from the dress circle to the Presidential box, located on the right of the audience. Gaining an entrance to the vestibule of the box, the actor barred the door from within. After observing the President's position through a small hole in the inner door, Booth, familiar with the play, entered the box about 10:20 P. M., when only one actor was on the stage. Lincoln sat with his back to the door, engrossed in the play. Suddenly the

fatal shot was fired and the mortally wounded President slumped in his chair.

As Major Rathbone sprang at the assassin, Booth dropped his single-shot Deringer and with his dagger stabbed Rathbone in the left arm forcing him to relinquish his hold. As Booth leaped from the box, the spur of his right boot became entangled in the colors of the U. S. Treasury Guards, decorating the center of the box. Thrown off balance, he landed awkwardly on the stage, at least 11½ feet below, fracturing the large bone in his left leg above the ankle.

Booth instantly regained his feet and brandishing his dagger, is asserted to have shouted "Sic semper tyrannis" (Ever thus to tyrants), the motto of the Commonwealth of Virginia, before dashing from the stage. Maj. Joseph B. Stewart, who was in the audience, crossed the footlights, in pursuit. Escaping by the rear door, the murderer mounted his horse, held by Joseph "Peanuts" Burroughs, the stage doorkeeper, and rode rapidly out of the alley to F Street. Booth fled into Maryland, and, aided by southern sympathizers, reached Garrett's farm, near Port Royal, Va., where he was shot and killed on April 26.

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THE NEW PRUSSIAN RIFLE

In the *Scientific American*, Dec. 21, 1872.

Courtesy Arthur T. Ward, New York.

Very little information has reached this country with reference to the new rifle selected by the Prussian Government for the armament of its troops, and we therefore give engravings for which we are indebted to the Engineer.

Fig. 1 represents the breech open for loading; Fig. 7 the arm at half cock, or, more correctly, in a position of safety. The rest of the engraving illustrates details. In many respects the rifle resembles the Chassepot of 1866. The shoe of the breech, A, carries within it the cylinder or breech piece, C, which is perforated for the striker, F. The breech piece is worked by means of the lever L, in the manner of all such guns. It is furnished with a guide block on its upper surface—like the Chassepot—which works between the two lips of the shoe, and which prevents rotation of the breech piece until the guide is clear of the lips or slot. The striker, F, is permanently attached to the cocking piece by the nut, S, and screw, Q, and this cocking piece can only move backward and forward without rotation, in consequence of the following arrangement: The striker is elliptical in section, as shown in the Figs. 3, 4, 5, which are taken at corresponding places in the striker; the face or movable head, M, of the breech piece is, moreover, detached from the breech piece, consequently the rotation of the cylindrical breech piece in opening and closing does not affect the position of the striker and its adjuncts. The striker is surrounded as usual by a spiral spring, G. The rear end of the breech block sets on the cocking piece by a kind of cam action, shown in detail in Fig. 2, and the object of this will be explained further on.

The extractor, shown in Fig. 3, and in section at Z in Fig 6, works in a groove in the left side of the shoe, and its position in the movable head in the breech block is shown in Fig. 4. K is a supplement to the extractor, and is called the ejector. It is mounted in the trigger spring, B, and works through the shoe. Its function is to throw the extracted case out of the

breech. A safety catch, N, is fitted to the cocking piece. It works upon a spring, like the back sight of a rifle, and when in use drops into the notch in the breech block, and prevents the striker reaching the cartridge.

The action of the gun is as follows: The breech being open as in Fig. 1, the cartridge is inserted, the breech block pushed forward till its guide is clear of the slot, then it is turned to the right, by which the breech is closed. The nose of the cocking piece is then bearing against B, and the striker spring is consequently compressed. The pressure on the trigger releases the striker which, impelled by the spring, fires the cartridge.

To open the breech and load again, the lever is turned from right to left; the head of the breech block and the cocking piece remain in the same position, for the reasons above given. The cam, C¹, of the breech block forces back the cam, S¹, on the cocking piece, and cocks the gun. The breech block is then drawn back; the

extractor draws out the empty case, which, striking violently on the claw of the ejector, K, is thereby thrown out of the shoe. It will be noticed, from its form, that the ejector is acted upon through its rear claw, that nearest its pivot. A groove is therefore cut for it in the lower part of the breech piece, and it results that the front claw never projects except when the breech piece is drawn back.

—O—

ARMS AND ARMOR AT AUCTION

The following pieces were sold at auction recently by the Parke-Bernet Galleries, Inc., New York, N. Y.

An Oriental, eighteenth century holster pistol, having a round and octagonal damascened steel barrel, inlaid with arabesques of brass; engraved

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 143)

FOR SALE

SEND 15c for latest list No. 13, just out. Lists over 100 fine antique arms for sale, such as cased flint and perc. duellers, blunderbuses, Scotch pistols, etc.—Glode M. Requa, Box 43, Monsey, N. Y. ap3405

OUR CATALOG of edged weapons describing and pricing a museum collection of swords and daggers will be sent on receipt of fifteen cents in coin.—Kimball Arms Company, Woburn, Mass. n120861

GUN COLLECTORS—For a complete service on books, parts, accessories and antique guns, write to Weisz, 100 South Uhle Street, Arlington, Virginia. je6616

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WANTED: Fancy Colts of all types. Premium prices paid.—Wm. M. Locke, 3607 Ault Park Rd., Cincinnati 8, Ohio. mh128001

WANT: Rarest and finest Colts, describe and price first letter. Dealer in World's Rarest Guns. (Also want Superb Foreign Guns, old or modern.)—Miller Bedford, New London, Ohio. ap128651

OLD OBSOLETE or antique pistols & revolvers, particularly the fancy ones.—H. A. Brand, 704 Ingalls Bldg., Cincinnati 2, Ohio. my120211

WANTED: ANTIQUE firearms (especially Kentucky rifles and Kentucky type pistols) engraved powder horns, rare arms books, literature and manuscripts.—Herman P. Dean, Box 1240, Huntington 14, W. Va. f126711

WANTED FOR CASH, old pistols, rifles, armor, edged weapon.—Robert Abels Shop, 860 Lexington Ave., New York 21, N. Y. f126711

BEST PRICES for single shot target rifles and others. Also want metal powder flasks, horns and other accessories.—Chester Nikodym, Mill Hollow, Chagrin Falls, Ohio. au120041

WANTED: Single pieces or collections of antique arms. Fair prices paid. Also liberal commissions paid for information leading to purchase of a collection.—Kimball Arms Co., Woburn, Mass. o128651

GOOD PRICES PAID for old rifles and pistols.—Earl Romey, Bluffton, Ind. ap6633

WANT EARLY Colts rifles and pistols in poor condition, especially Patterson and Dragoon models. Write—Geo. McQueen, 5111 Grant, Omaha, Neb. ap6885

WANTED Mailed Hand for suit of armor. Give size and price.—Hobbies Museum, St. Augustine, Fla. ttx





1. The Derringer Pistol with Which Booth Shot Lincoln.
2. The Bullet That Entered Lincoln's Skull and Killed Him.
3. Cap Booth Had In Case the One on the Pistol Failed
4. Pieces of Lincoln's Skull Removed by the Doctors the Night He Died.
5. Probe Used to Explore the Wound in Lincoln's Head

Photo by
Frederick
Flyke
World Magazine
Sept 1909

ROBERT ABELS :-: ANTIQUE FIREARMS :-: 860 LEXINGTON AVE. :-: NEW YORK, 21

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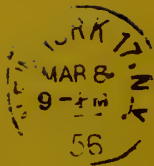
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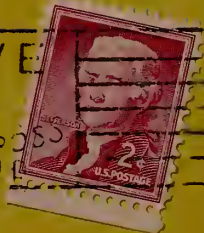
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sun burst is still visible. It's in good
condition and is selling for \$100. Sorry do
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8932 Tudor Avenue
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Lincoln Death Bullet Displayed in Capital

By BESS FURMAN

Courier-Express-New York Times Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—The bullet that killed President Lincoln, locked for many years in a safe in the museum of the Ford Theater, where he was shot, is on display here.

It now may be seen at the Army Medical Museum. A curator at the Ford Theater explained that the bullet never had been displayed to the public until this year. With the bullet is the probe used by the surgeons in taking it out, and six pieces of broken skull which also were extracted in the operation.

Restoration Proposed

The Ford Theater Museum collection consists of 800 exhibits and almost as many labels telling of the life and death of Abraham Lincoln. A bill to restore the theater to the way it was when Lincoln was shot failed to get out of committee last session. It was reintroduced this session by Sen. Milton R. Young (R-ND).

The eve of another Lincoln's birthday found that the wave of modernization which has been sweeping the Smithsonian Museum has not yet hit its Lincoln case. This old-fashioned case with an upper and lower section has stayed the same for at least the last 30 years—its contents strangely separated from their logical fellows.

The silk stovepipe hat is still separated from the cane, the cane in the top section, the hat below. The black broadcloth coat is on the top section, the black silk waistcoat and broadcloth trousers on the lower. Lincoln wore these items shortly before he died—and carried the cane while president.

The top section contains the first cast made in the mold taken from the living face of Abraham Lincoln by Leonard W. Volk, Chicago sculptor, in 1860. It also contains the first cast from the molds of Lincoln's hands, made in Springfield on the Sunday following his nomination.

Would Return Furniture

In a remarkable way, the hands bring Lincoln to life. One holds a short bar in a strong grasp. The other is relaxed.

Rep. Peter F. Mack Jr. (D-Ill.), today said the furniture which once stood in Lincoln's home in Springfield, which has been made into a museum, should be returned there. This would include an oak stand, dining room chair, pine desk, woodburning stove and other items now in the Ford Theater; and two horsehair sofas and a rocking chair now in the house just across the street where the president died. Other Springfield items are in Chicago and Dearborn (Mich.) museums.

Louisville Times
**Bullet That Slew
 Lincoln Given to
 Medical Museum**
8/6/56

Washington, Aug. 6 (UP)—The bullet John Wilkes Booth fired into the back of Abraham Lincoln's head at Ford's Theater in 1865 has been given to the armed forces medical museum for display.

The probe used to remove the .44 caliber lead slug and six fragments of the President's skull also is on exhibition there.

The relics were donated by the Lincoln Museum (formerly Ford's Theater) which no longer has use for them. The bullet has been stored in a vault since 1940 when the judge advocate general's office gave it to the museum.

BULLET THAT KILLED LINCOLN ON DISPLAY IN WASHINGTON

By BESS FURMAN

[Boston Herald-M. T. Times Dispatch]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11—The bullet that killed President Lincoln, locked for many years in a safe in the museum of the Ford Theater where he was shot, is on display here.

It now may be seen at the Army Medical Museum. A curator at the Ford Theater explained that the bullet never had been displayed to the public until this year. With the bullet is the probe used by the surgeons in taking it out. "These items were never considered appropriate to our collection," said the curator. "But they were entirely in keeping with that of the Army Medical Museum, which had no qualms about putting them on display." The Ford Theater Museum collection consists of 800 exhibits and almost as many labels telling the life and death of Abraham Lincoln.

Assembly instructions for **DERRINGER** **.41 CAL.**



Collector's Facts *about your Derringer .41 cal.*

(Circa 1840)

ORIGINAL CRAFTED BY HENRY DERRINGER, JR.

Since Henry Deringer, Jr., first crafted his 5½ inch single shot pistol in the 1800s, all guns of this type have become known as "derringers." So truly had Deringer sensed the need of the times—perhaps partly from his close association with General Andrew Jackson—that no sooner had his weapon become known than copies began appearing all over the country. But the mark of authenticity all true gun collectors prize is the engraved inscription "Derringer, Philadelphia" on the barrel, guaranteeing the firearm to be one of the precise hand-wrought specimens of the master gunsmith.

Derringer pistols have often rightly been called "history makers," for they figured importantly in battles of the Spanish-American War, the public-spirited campaign that outlawed the Vigilantes, and the death of America's great president Abraham Lincoln. Unfortunately, John Wilkes Booth owned a derringer. His infamous gun is still on display at the Lincoln Museum in the Ford Theatre Building, Washington, D.C.

The very convenience of its small size and its 8 ounce weight contributed greatly to the popularity of the derringer. Its .41 caliber ball meant sure death at 50 feet. A delicately engraved sheaf of wheat flanks the identi-

fying name on the left of the firing nipple. The 2 inch case-hardened steel barrel is flattened for better sighting. Two narrow bands of brass across the barrel provide added strength to compensate for heat expansion where the metal meets the walnut stock. "DERRINGER, PHILADEL." appears again on a leaf engraved plate screwed into the walnut. The thumb grip is checkered for fast action, and the blue steel hammer is exquisitely chased with a wreath design. Trigger guard, nipple rest and butt plate are heavily leafed brass in an acorn pattern. Only the brass muzzle rest is unadorned.

Every derringer owner had practiced his necessary loading routine so that when an emergency arose, he automatically—and with fast flying fingers—rammed gunpowder, wad and ball into the muzzle, placed a small brass percussion cap on the nipple, and pulled the trigger. Five shots a minute was close to a record with the derringer.

Your derringer .41 caliber hand arm is a perfect reproduction of the genuine derringer, as exactly crafted as was Henry Deringer's original—a famous and valuable addition to your collection.

CUT HERE

LIST OF PARTS FOR H-602 DERRINGER

Should any parts be missing, indicate in space below, insert in envelope, and mail to: Department X, Revell, Inc., 4223 Ocean Park Ave., Venice, Calif.

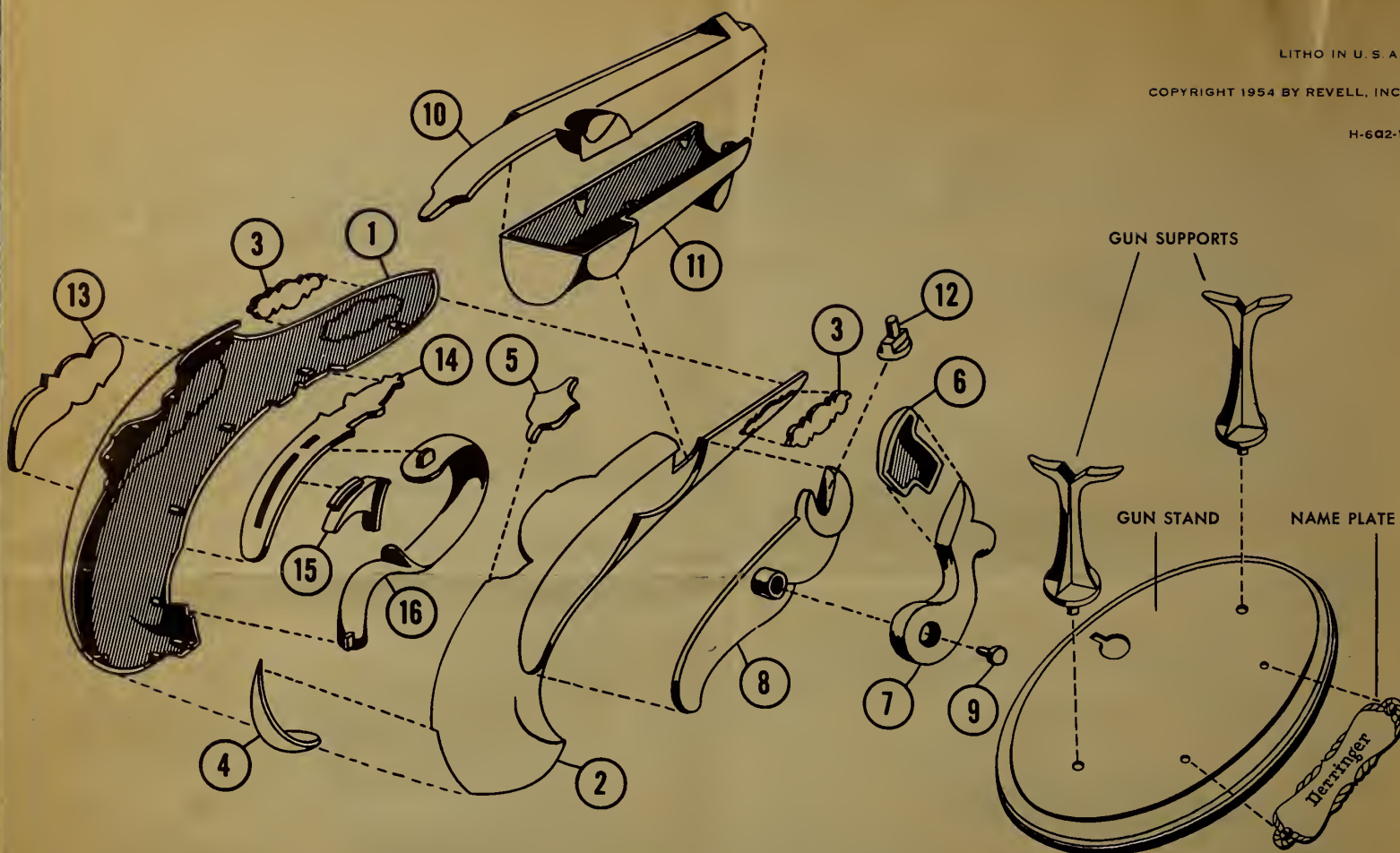
NO.	NO.	NO.	NO.
1 GUN HANDLE LEFT HALF	6 HAMMER LEFT HALF	11 BARREL BOTTOM HALF	16 TRIGGER GUARD
2 GUN HANDLE RIGHT HALF	7 HAMMER RIGHT HALF	12 FIRING PIN	GUN STAND
3 BARREL PIN PLATES (2)	8 HAMMER BASE PLATE	13 HAMMER SCREW PLATE	GUN STAND SUPPORTS (2)
4 BUTT PLATE	9 HINGE PIN CAP	14 TRIGGER BASE PLATE	NAME PLATE
5 THUMB PLATE	10 BARREL TOP HALF	15 TRIGGER	

YOUR NAME _____
(PLEASE PRINT)

CITY _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

ZONE _____ STATE _____



Take all parts out of the package and lay them out on the table. Check the parts against the drawing to make sure you recognize them. Clean off any molding "flash" that may be present. **USE ONLY POLYSTYRENE CEMENT.**

1. Cement the left and right gun handles (1) and (2) together.
2. Next cement the barrel pin plates (3) into the handle assembly in the recesses provided.
3. Cement the butt plate (4) into the position shown in illustration.
4. Cement the thumb plate (5) into the position shown in illustration.
5. Cement the left and right halves of the hammer (6) and (7) together.
6. Now place the hammer assembly onto the pin on the hammer base plate (8). The hinge pin cap (9) should then be cemented to the pin being careful not to get any cement on the hammer. Set this assembly aside to dry.
7. Cement top and bottom halves of the barrel (10) and (11) together.
8. Cement the barrel assembly to the handle assembly.
9. The hammer assembly made in step #6 may now be cemented to the handle in the recess provided.
10. Cement the pin (12) into the location shown in illustration.
11. Cement the hammer screw plate (13) into the recess provided on the left side of the handle.
12. Cement the trigger base plate (14) into place on the underside of the gun. The cantour on the front part of the plate should fit into the matching cantour on the underside of the gun.
13. Next snap the trigger (15) into the slot in the trigger base plate (14). Cement it in the rear of the slot, or leave it loose, if you like.
14. Finally cement the trigger guard (16) into place using the slot in the trigger base plate and the slot on the underside of the gun handle.

15. Insert a Gun Support in each of the two large holes in the Gun Stand Base. Cement the Nameplate in place, using the two smaller holes at the front of Gun Stand Base. (See diagram for proper positioning.)

16. The Gun Stand may either be set on a table to support the gun or hung on a wall with a nail, using the large slatted hole in the base.



"ANTIQUE" YOUR GUN FOR ADDED REALISM

Your model gun may be made to look very realistic and life-like by doing the following:

You will need a small amount of black enamel for guns with metal-colored parts that are either silver or gold; or silver enamel for metal-colored parts that are dark blue. Before using, the enamel should be well mixed.

Using a small, soft brush, cover a small area of the metal-colored parts of the gun with the enamel, and then quickly wipe the excess off with a clean, hard cloth.

All of the metal-colored parts should be gone over in this manner, being sure to cover only a small section at a time. The paint will fill in the grooves in the engraved areas of the gun and will remain when the surface of the smooth areas of the gun are wiped clean.

We suggest that you work quite fast so that the enamel will not have time to set up on the flat surface of the gun.



Revell, Incorporated • 4223 Glencoe Avenue • Venice, California 90292

Telephone • EXmont 8-5711 • Upton 0-7651

Cable Address: Revellcal

April 7, 1967.

Dr. R. G. McMurtry,
The Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Dr. McMurtry:

Thank you for writing to Revell.

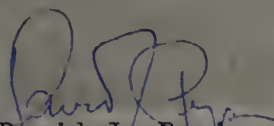
Revell discontinued manufacturing a model kit of the Derringer Cap-and-Ball Pistol more than four years ago. Consequently, we no longer have any extra kits in our warehouse.

We are sorry, but we are unable to suggest an alternate source of supply.

Your interest in our products is appreciated.

Sincerely,

REVELL, INC.,


David J. Pepin,
Manager, Consumer Service.

DJP/jw

Heritage Or Hoax?

A derringer that might have been in Booth's pocket when he shot Lincoln brings \$77,000 at auction.

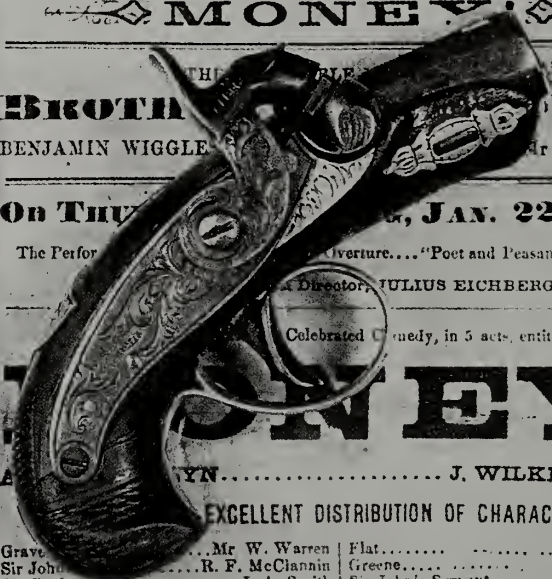
By GARRY JAMES

Garry James, a longtime editor for a major firearms magazine, has been writing about and appraising guns for more than 20 years. With these credentials in mind, we asked him to write this article about an intriguing 19th Century derringer auctioned in San Francisco last spring.

Over the years I have asked many antique arms experts what they consider to be the world's most valuable gun. While there have been a few dissenters, the majority feels that distinction goes to the Philadelphia derringer used by John Wilkes Booth to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln. That fully documented .44-caliber (it has also been described as a .41-caliber) single-shot percussion pistol made by Henry Deringer now reposes in the museum at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. There is little likelihood it will ever be offered for sale.

However, a gun that may be its close relative was sold earlier this year. The San Francisco-based auction firm of Butterfield and Butterfield auctioned a piece on May 31 that was touted as having been picked up by a stagehand at Ford's Theater the day after the assassination. It is a .36-caliber derringer with a 1 1/2-inch barrel, measuring four inches overall, with "J. Wilkes Booth" engraved on its butt. The gun, which was sold by the order of an East Coast financial institution, brought \$77,000 plus a 10-percent buyer's premium.

We know for a fact that, in addition to the fully authenticated derringer, Booth had a Rio Grande Camp Knife with him on April 15, 1865. He used it to slash Major Henry Rathbone, who was in the President's box. In his saddlebags he carried a Colt 1851 Navy revolver and 1860 Army revolver. Later, at the home of Mary Surratt in Clinton, Maryland, he picked up a



MONEY!

BROTHER ME!

BENJAMIN WIGGLE Mr. W. WARREN

On Thursday, JAN. 22, 1863,

The Performer... "Poet and Peasant"... STUFFS.

Director, JULIUS EICHBERG.

Celebrated Comedy, in 5 acts, entitled

MONEY!

BY J. WILKES BOOTH

EXCELLENT DISTRIBUTION OF CHARACTERS!

Grave...	Mr. W. Warren	Flat...	W. J. Bill
Sir John...	R. F. McClannin	Greene...	H. Peakes
Sir Frederick Mount...	J. A. Smith	Sir John's Servant...	Hunter
Lord Glossmore...	J. Wheelock	Take...	Delano
Stout...	F. Hardenburgh	Waiter at the Club...	Woman
		Class Donnel...	Miss Kate Reynolds

This .36-caliber derringer may have belonged to assassin John Wilkes Booth.

Spencer repeating carbine. None of these weapons, nor the .44 derringer, was engraved with Booth's name.

The provenance of the recently auctioned gun is not nearly as solid as that of the Booth guns now at Ford's Theater, but it does have an interesting history, and the Booth inscription certainly appears to be from the Civil War period. I was fortunate enough to be able to thoroughly examine the piece when it arrived at Butterfield and Butterfield, and it had an aura about it. Unfortunately, it is difficult to translate feelings into dollars and cents. Let's take a look at the gun's background as well as consider the opinions of other antique arms experts.

The pistol was supposedly found by a carpenter on the stage at Ford's Theater on the morning of Saturday, April 15, 1865. According to tradition, the carpenter then gave it to George Goodwin, manager of the Walnut Street Theater in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who kept it until he died in the 1890s. It then passed on to Goodwin's widow, who presented it to George Plowman, Goodwin's associate at the theater. The gun remained in the Plowman family until the 1970s, when it was sold to Hamilton Cochran of the Delaware Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Since a Philadelphia derringer is a single-shot percussion pistol that certainly

could have misfired, I believe there is every possibility that Booth could have carried a backup with him into the President's box. Unfortunately, the first recorded mention of the Cochran gun wasn't until 46 years after the assassination, in an article in the September 15, 1901, issue of *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. In that story Plowman stated that he thought the derringer he owned was the one used to shoot Lincoln.

E. Philip Schreier III, curator of exhibits at the National Firearms Museum, recently reviewed the *Inquirer* article and concluded that the Cochran gun could not possibly have been the murder weapon.

"... William T. Kent, a patron of the theater during the assassination, assisted in the removal of Lincoln's body from the theater to the Petersen House," he stated. "He went back to the President's box to search for his missing keys. He found the .41 (or .44) derringer Booth had used on the floor of the box. He immediately turned it over to the Metropolitan Police."

"... A forensic study of the bullet that killed Lincoln was done by Major John T. Legowik on April 6, 1971. The bullet is too deformed to actually determine its caliber or if rifling marks are present. However, the weight, 6.3 grams (97.44 grains) is consistent with the weight of a .41 lead

Continued on page 89

Heritage Or Hoax?

Continued from page 24

bullet. The second 'Booth Derringer' is .36; the bullet is far too heavy to have been a .36.... The engraving on this derringer was inspected on May 5, 1971 by Walter V. Cunningham, Chief engraver of the J.E. Caldwell Co. (founded 1839). He reported that the style of the lettering was common to the 1860-1865 period and that the condition of the engraving was consistent with the condition of the pistol.

"... it is my strong belief that this Booth-marked derringer was at one time the property of J. Wilkes Booth and that it could have been on his person the night of April 14, 1865, when he killed President Lincoln. Booth, being an educated man and a student of history, probably knew of the attempt on the life of Andrew Jackson some thirty years earlier that failed when a gun twice failed to go off."

The gun has had considerable press ever since the *Inquirer* piece, including an article in the January 1975 issue of *CWTI*. A volume of ex post facto literature, however, does not mean a gun is something it may not be.

Antique arms dealer Michael Zomber commented that derringers were normal-

ly sold in a case in pairs. He believes that if Booth did have a second gun with him it would probably have been the mate of the one he dropped in the President's box. The possibility that he carried a less-powerful .36 coupled with the logistical problems of worrying about two different calibers and charges does not seem to go along with Booth's otherwise fairly well-thought-out assassination plans.

The next area of conjecture revolves around the "J. Wilkes Booth" inscription. As I mentioned earlier, I have seen the gun and was particularly taken with the style and antiquity of the engraving. I have no doubt it was done in the 19th Century. Had I seen this type of writing on a revolver that had been presented to a Civil War officer, I would not question its authenticity. On the other hand, when I was the arms and armor expert at the international auction house Sotheby Parke Bernet, I adopted the policy that unless an item engraved with a famous person's name had provenance dating to the time that person supposedly owned it, its legitimacy must be suspect.

Not everyone agrees, however. Based upon the engraving style and existing 20th Century articles, respected arms authority R.L. Wilson concluded: "The J.

Wilkes Booth Derringer is an extremely important artifact, is completely genuine, and its inscription and pedigree connects the piece directly with the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, one of the pivotal events in American history."

A couple of weeks after I had seen the recently sold gun, I met with George Houle, owner of Houle Rare Books and Autographs in Los Angeles, California. I asked him about the proliferation of Lincolniana in the late 19th Century. He noted that at the time there was a great degree of interest in Lincoln and the assassination and that a large number of fake or spurious documents and other items were produced during the period.

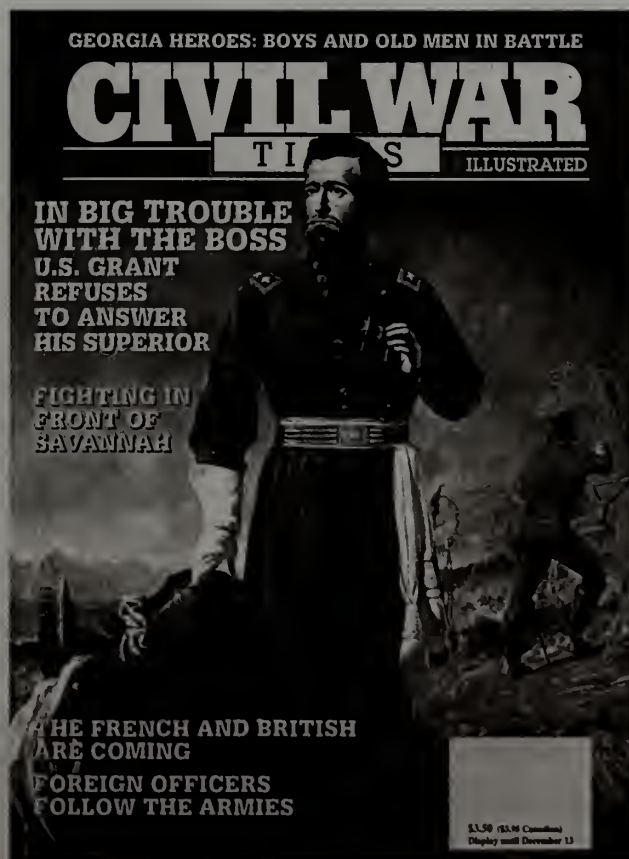
Personally, I would like to believe that this was the "second gun." But in this particular case, intellect overshadows emotion, and I do harbor some degree of skepticism concerning the derringer's actual connection to Booth. Unfortunately, it is very probable that, unless we eventually run across legitimate documentation of this connection, such as a verifiable statement from the carpenter who picked up the pistol, we will never really know for sure. On the other hand, I have to admit, I wouldn't mind having it in my collection. ■

THE ADVANCE

IN DESPERATE COMBAT:
CONFEDERATES DEFEND
FORT MCALLISTER

SOLVING
A TENNESSEE MYSTERY
AND DISCOVERING
ENEMY AGENTS
ON THE TELEGRAPH

MORE REAL LIFE
ADVENTURES
IN THE ARMY
OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA





Photocopy
original in safe

Booth's Deringer,





PERCUSSION ARMS

When the Reverend Alexander Forsyth hit upon the device of a gunlock in which a striker would explode a small quantity of fulminate in a channel leading to the bore, the percussion system got its start. Pistols became handier weapons and some, like the pocket-size Deringer, were favorites of card players caught with five aces.

